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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,800	03/29/2001	Hiroki Umeda	02860.0671	2635

22852 7590 08/22/2006

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EXAMINER

TON, MINH TOAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/819,800

Applicant(s)

UMEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Toan Ton

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abileah et al (US 5694187) in view of VanderPloeg et al (US 5895106).

See detailed explanations of the rejection mailed 03/08/06 pertaining to claims 1-11 and 17-20.

Abileah discloses the liquid crystal display device comprising a support layer such as one of inherent transparent substrates (not shown) with the liquid crystal layer 5 sandwiched there between.

3. Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abileah in view of VanderPloeg as applied to claims 1-11 and 17-20 above, and further in view of Kamada et al (US 5646703).

See detailed explanations of the rejection mailed 03/08/06 pertaining to claims 12-15.

4. Claims 16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abileah in view of VanderPloeg as applied to claims 1-11 and 17-20 above, and further in view of Matsuoka et al (US 6630973).

See detailed explanations of the rejection mailed 03/08/06 pertaining to claims 16 and 21.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 05/01/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are as follows:

(1) Abileah fails to disclose the optical compensation sheet comprising at least two optically anisotropic layers and a support, wherein there is an angle of 80-100 degrees between the orientation directions between the two optically anisotropic layers.

(2) VanderPloeg fails to disclose the optical compensation sheet comprising at least two optically anisotropic layers and a support.

(3) Abileah fails to disclose an optical compensation sheet provided between a liquid crystal layer and a polarizing plate.

(4) VanderPloeg fails to disclose an optical compensation sheet provided between a liquid crystal layer and a polarizing plate.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's arguments are as follows:

(1) Abileah discloses the optical compensation sheet comprising at least two optically anisotropic layers (e.g., 7, 3) and a support such as one of inherent transparent substrates (not shown) with the liquid crystal layer 5 sandwiched there between. Abileah discloses the angle relationship being about 90 degrees (within Applicant's claimed range of 80-100 degrees, see at least Figures 11b-11c, previously stated in the final rejection).

(2) Abileah, the primary reference, discloses the optical compensation sheet comprising at least two optically anisotropic layers (e.g., 7, 3) and a support such as one of inherent transparent substrates (not shown) with the liquid crystal layer 5 sandwiched there between. VanderPloeg, the secondary reference, is relied upon to teach the LCD device comprising retarders having inclined/polar angle which varies upward/downward (i.e., increases/decreases) for achieving advantages such as improved contrast, reduced inversion.

(3) Abileah discloses an optical compensation sheet (e.g., 7, 3) provided between a liquid crystal layer (e.g., 5) and a polarizing plate (e.g., 9, 1).

(4) VanderPloeg, the secondary reference, is relied upon to teach the LCD device comprising retarders having inclined/polar angle which varies upward/downward (i.e., increases/decreases) for achieving advantages such as improved contrast, reduced inversion. Abileah, the primary reference, discloses an optical compensation sheet (e.g., 7, 3) provided between a liquid crystal layer (e.g., 5) and a polarizing plate (e.g., 9, 1).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2303.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

August 16, 2006


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER